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IROQUOIS COUNTY

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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CONSERVATION AREA



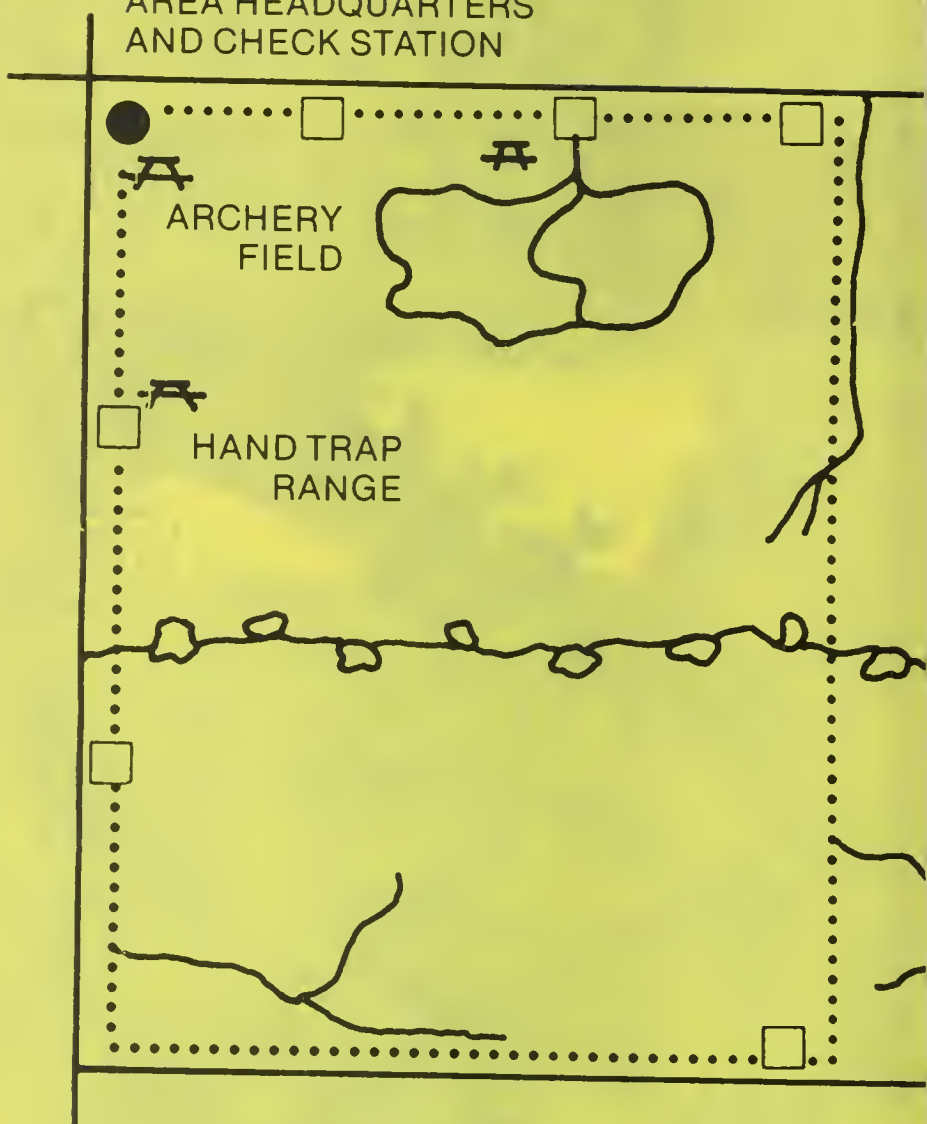
ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

Illinois
Department of
Conservation
life and land together

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AREA HEADQUARTERS
AND CHECK STATIONPARKING AREAS 

DOG TRAINING AREA

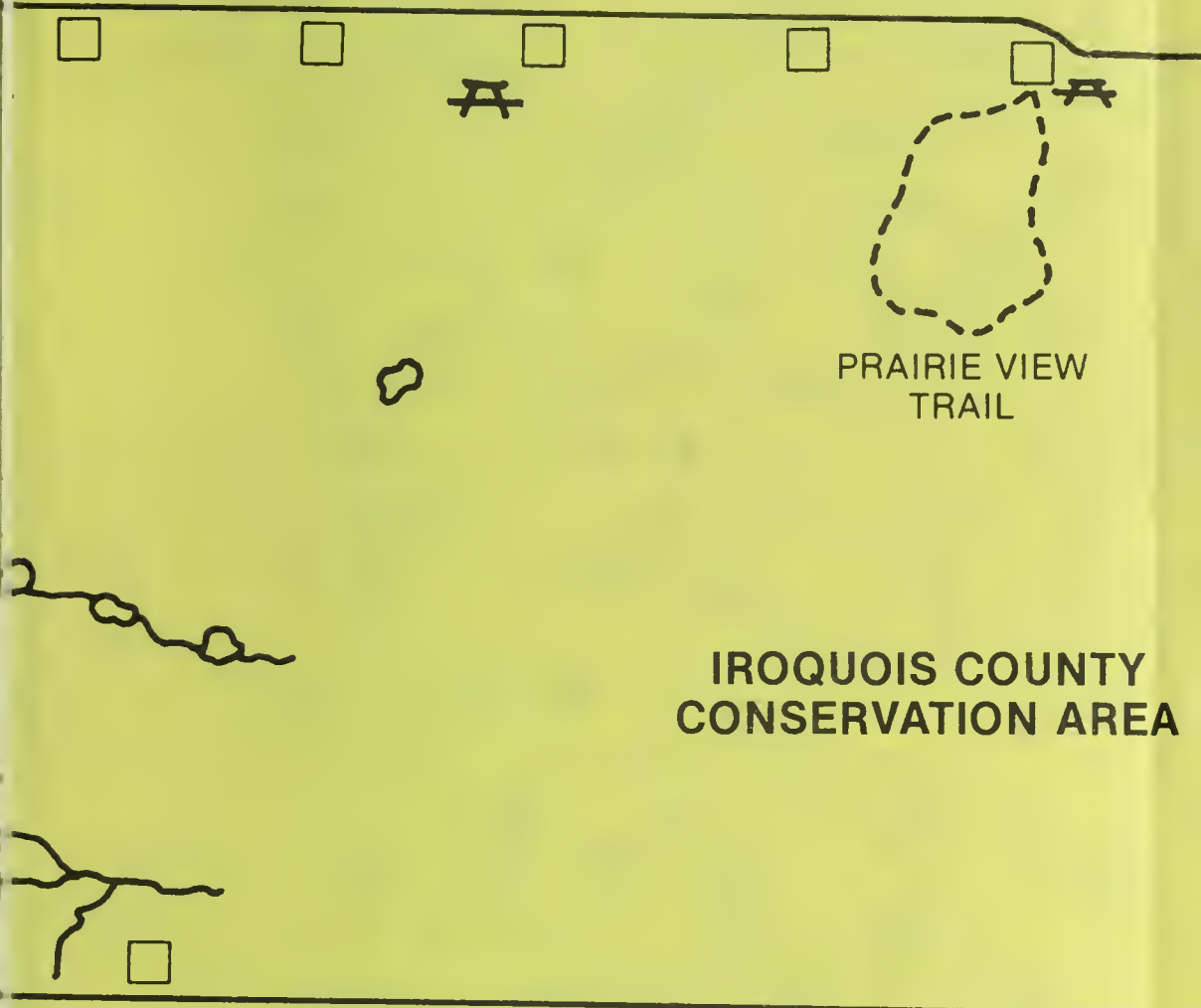
PICNIC TABLE PONDS 

THE AREA

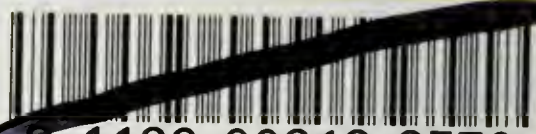
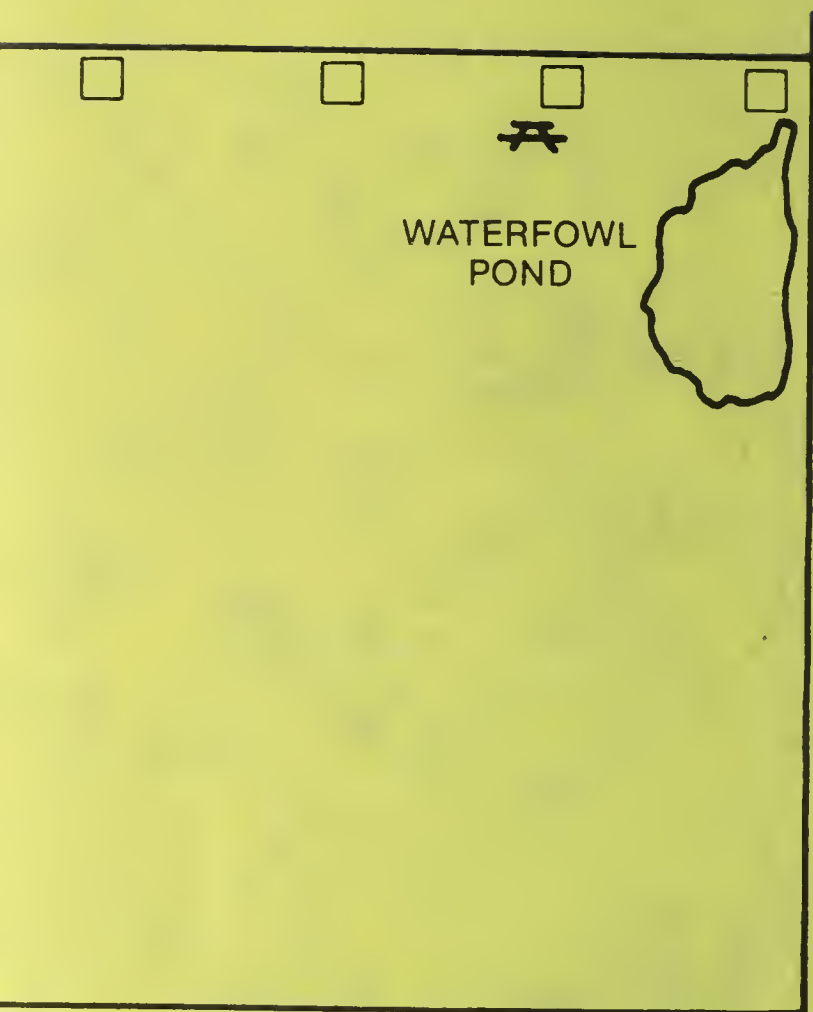
The Iroquois County Conservation Area, a 1,920 acre tract of forest, prairie, and marsh, is located 2 miles north and 3 miles east of Beaverville, in the extreme northeast corner of the county. The area is about 80 miles south of Chicago. Originally acquired by the state in 1944, the area is managed by the Bureau of Land and Historic Sites principally as a permit pheasant hunting area. In addition, upland game and deer (bow only) hunting are permitted before and after the permit pheasant season. This area is also attractive to hikers and individuals interested in nature study and photography.

NATURAL FEATURES

Iroquois County Conservation Area, situated in a low glacial outwash containing numerous



sand ridges, exhibits some of the finest and most extensive prairie marsh and sand dune vegetation remaining in Illinois. The occurrence of this vegetation is regulated by soil characteristics and moisture. The dry sand ridges are dominated by black oak forest. Lower lying areas range from dry prairie to marsh depending on soil moisture. Dominant grasses on dry prairie areas are little bluestem and switch grass. Grasses such as big bluestem, Indian grass, little bluestem and switch grass are dominant on mesic (intermediate between wet and dry) prairie. Areas of wet prairie are indicated by bluejoint grass, cord grass, and sedges. Marshes at Iroquois are occupied by cattails, rushes, and sedges. Several boggy areas contain plants seldom encountered elsewhere in Illinois. Among these are blueberry, huckleberry, hardhack, marsh marigold, colic root, sundew (a carnivorous plant), and primrose violet.



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Aside from supporting huntable populations of deer and upland game, the Iroquois County Conservation Area is inhabited by numerous, interesting nongame birds and mammals. Wet prairies and marshes provide preferred habitat for birds such as herons, bitterns, rails, snipe, and marsh hawks. During migration, marshes are visited by numerous species of ducks and the rare sandhill crane. Mammals utilizing Iroquois's marshlands include raccoon, muskrat, mink, and beaver. Upland prairie and forest at Iroquois are inhabited by many species of songbirds. During migration, the number of species that may be seen on the area is increased even further. The Veery, a rare thrush, is reported to nest on the area. Unusual mammalian species occupying the uplands include the plains pocket gopher and the southern flying squirrel.



HUNTING

The area is primarily a permit pheasant hunting area; however, there is rabbit, quail, and pheasant hunting on the area after the permit season has been concluded. Prior to the permit portion of the hunting season, squirrel and dove provide most of the hunting action. Deer (bow only) hunting, is allowed on the area prior to and following the permit portion of the hunting season. Lesser opportunities for woodcock, rail, and snipe are also available. The weekend prior to the opening of the permit pheasant season is reserved for young hunters 10 to 15 years of age for a youth hunt. Check with the site superintendent for upland game species and hunting dates on the area.

1. All hunting is to be with shotgun or bow and arrow only.

2. During the permit pheasant season, all hunters must check in and check out before and after hunting at the area headquarters.
3. Before and after the permit pheasant season, all hunters must check out after hunting at the area headquarters.

Raccoon and opossum may be taken only if special permission is obtained from the site superintendent.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: Tables are provided in designated areas. There are no shelters. Toilets and drinking water are available at the area headquarters.

Trails: There is a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long hiking trail and a one mile self-guided nature trail of which $\frac{1}{2}$ mile is accessible to the handicapped. In addition, several miles of unmarked trails wind through wooded and prairie sections of the area that have much interesting plant, animal and bird life. To preserve the high quality of the natural area at Iroquois, all access on the area is by walking only. Please carry out all litter and do not remove any natural material.

Archery: In the northwest corner of the area, an archery range is available for area visitors.

Hand Trap Range: A designated shooting area is available for anyone wishing to warm up for the hunting season; shotgun only.

Dog Training: There is a designated area for training or exercising dogs. Training is closed April 1 to August 1 for the protection of breeding wildlife.

Concession: A temporary concession operates at the headquarters during the permit hunting season.

GENERAL INFORMATION

For further details about this site, contact Site Superintendent, Iroquois County Conservation Area, Beaverville, Illinois 60912, phone 815-435-2218. For information on other state sites write Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites, 605 Stratton Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706.